



## EU Settlement Scheme: Information for EU Settlement Scheme applicants

### Introduction

- This leaflet contains helpful information for those who have made an application to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).
- If you have not yet applied to the scheme, you can make a late application at [www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](https://www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme). Please refer to this leaflet for more guidance on making a late application: [EU Settlement Scheme: information for late applicants](#)
- **If you have become a British citizen since receiving pre-settled or settled status, the following information does not apply to you.**

### Important changes since 1 July

- In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, the EUSS was established to enable EU, EEA and Swiss citizens<sup>1</sup>, resident in the UK by the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, and their family members, to get the immigration status they need to continue to work, study and access benefits and services, such as healthcare, in the UK after 30 June 2021. Find out more at [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk).
- For those citizens resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, the deadline for applications to be made to the EUSS was 30 June 2021, which was also the end of the grace period during which their existing EU law rights were protected pending the outcome of an application to the EUSS made by the deadline
- Since 1 July 2021, EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members have to evidence their right to be in the UK by having a valid UK immigration status. If you do not hold indefinite leave to enter or remain, you can obtain the status you need through the EUSS if you were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, or are a joining family member of an EU, EEA, or Swiss citizen who was resident here by then. Alternatively, you may be able to obtain a valid visa under the points-based immigration system.
- You do not need to apply for status if you have indefinite leave to enter or remain already or are an Irish citizen.

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<sup>1</sup> The European Economic Area includes citizens from Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. For a full list of countries, visit [gov.uk/eu-eea](https://gov.uk/eu-eea)



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- If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen or their family member who was resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, but did not make an application to the EUSS by the deadline of 30 June 2021, your rights in UK law are not protected. This includes your rights to work, study and access benefits and services in the UK.
- EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members are now required to provide proof of their rights to work, to rent private or social housing (if resident in England), and access benefits.

### Pending applications made by the 30 June 2021 deadline

- Individuals who submitted an application to the EUSS by the deadline of 30 June 2021 have their existing rights protected until the application is decided. Rights are also protected where the outcome of any appeal against a decision to refuse status is pending.
- Anyone awaiting the outcome of their in-time application to the EUSS can evidence their rights with their Certificate of Application which is issued as soon as possible after a valid application is received.
- A Certificate of Application is accessible to view online, via the [view and prove your immigration status service](#).
- You will have created a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account when you made your application to the EUSS. To log in you will need your UKVI account credentials, details of the identity document you used when you made your application and access to either the phone or email account you used when you applied. From there you will be able to generate a share code that will give third parties, such as employers, time-limited access to view your status.
- If you are waiting for your Certificate of Application, the email acknowledging receipt of your application explains how prospective employers and landlords can request information about your right to work and rent from the Employer Checking Service and the Landlord Checking Service.
- If you have been notified that you have a digital Certificate of Application, Border Force will be able to check your pending status automatically at the border using the documents registered, so your travel in and out of the country will not be affected while your application is being processed. Where necessary, you will be able to use the [view and prove your immigration status service](#) to evidence your pending status where this is required by others, such as carriers.



Please do check the COVID-19 travel requirements as these operate in addition to the immigration requirements and may vary depending on where you live in the UK.

## Switching from pre-settled to settled status

- If you hold pre-settled status under the EUSS, you can apply to switch to settled status as soon as you're eligible. This is usually after you've lived in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for 5 years in a row (known as 'continuous residence').
- You do not need to have held pre-settled status for 5 years before you can apply to switch to settled status. If you have spent more than 6 months outside the UK in a 12-month period, you may not be eligible for settled status, save for a single period of absence of up to 12 months for an important reason (such as study, caring for a relative who was seriously ill or an overseas posting). If your continuous residence has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, see: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): EU Settlement Scheme - guidance for applicants - GOV.UK](#)
- To switch, you must apply to the EU Settlement Scheme again before your pre-settled status expires. For further information, please refer to the [guidance available on GOV.UK](#).

## Using your immigration status

- Since 1 July 2021, EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme have been required to evidence their rights in the UK with their digital immigration status, rather than their passport or ID card. For example, they may need to do this when applying for a new job or when entering a new tenancy agreement.
- This is also the case for people with a pending application that was submitted by 30 June 2021. A Certification of Application will be available in the individual's UKVI account. Those who submitted a paper application will have a Certificate of Application sent to them.
- We have published a new [guide for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens on viewing and proving their immigration status \(eVisa\)](#). This guide explains how people can view, prove and share their immigration status and update their details, what they should expect when crossing the UK border and how to get help accessing their immigration status.



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- Other services and departments, such as HMRC, DWP and the NHS, will have automatic access to check a person's eligibility for benefits and services.
- It's important people keep their personal details on their UKVI account up to date. They can update their details through the 'update your UK Visas and Immigration account details' service or by using the 'update details' function in the [view and prove your immigration status service](#).
- If an individual needs help accessing or using the online immigration status services, organisations helping others to apply can contact the UKVI Settlement Resolution Centre by calling: 0300 790 0566. Lines are open Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays), 8am to 8pm, Saturday and Sunday, 9:30am to 4:30pm.

### Right to work checks

- Since 1 July 2021, EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members have been required to evidence their right to work in the UK, either using their online immigration status (eVisa) / Certificate of Application, or with a physical immigration document such as a Biometric Residence Card (BRC).

### Right to rent checks

- Since 1 July 2021, EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members have been required to evidence their right to rent in England, either using their online immigration status (eVisa) / Certificate of Application, or with a physical immigration document such as a Biometric Residence Card (BRC).

### Family members

- If there are any EU, EEA or Swiss citizen or non-EEA citizen members of your family who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 and are yet to apply to the EUSS, they should do so at: [www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](http://www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme)
- Overseas family members of any nationality of EU, EEA or Swiss citizens who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, can apply to join them at any time, where the family relationship was formed by 31 December 2020 (except where a child was born or adopted after it) and continues to exist. They may be able to apply to the EUSS from outside the UK or they may need to apply for an EUSS family permit to come to the UK and then apply to the EUSS once here.



### Applying for children

- If you have children who are not British citizens or don't have indefinite leave to enter or remain, who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, they must have their own application to the EU Settlement Scheme.
- If you didn't apply for your children by the deadline of 30 June 2021, you will need to submit a late application on their behalf as soon as possible, and when you apply for your child you can 'link' their application to yours. For further information, please refer to the guidance available [on GOV.UK](#).
- If you are expecting a child (or have given birth since 1 April 2021), then the child will also need to have an application made on their behalf to the EUSS within 3 months of their date of birth. However, if either of the child's parents had settled status under the EUSS (or another form of indefinite leave to enter or remain) before the child was born in the UK, then they don't need to make an application on their behalf, as the child will be a British citizen.
- If either parent has an outstanding in time application to the EUSS when their child is born in the UK which results in a grant of settled status, their child will become a British citizen from the date on which the grant of settled status is made. There is no need to make a further application for the child in relation to this.
- If either parent submits a late application on the basis of reasonable grounds for missing the deadline which results in a grant of settled status based on their residency as of 30 June 2021, then any child born in the UK on or after 1 July 2021 will become a British citizen from the date on which the grant of settled status is made. There is no need to make a further application for the child in relation to this.

### Before you travel – crossing the UK border from 1 July

- The view and prove service advises individuals with digital status to keep their travel documents updated.
- Individuals with pre-settled or settled status under the EUSS should ensure that they update their online account with all valid travel documents (such as passports or national identity cards) that they hold and intend to use for travel, to avoid any unnecessary delays at the border. They can do this online by using the view and prove service,



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which enables individuals with digital status to keep their travel documents updated. More information can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).